AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a computer program for converting characters of a first type into at least one character of a second type, said program when executed enables~~A tool for converting characters of a first type into characters of a second type, comprising~~:

~~a segmentation module that associates two or more characters of the first type into a segment;~~

a user interface which:~~that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module, the user interface~~

~~displaying~~ displays a plurality of characters of the first type; ~~and~~

~~providing~~ provides an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters of the first type are to be associated together into ~~the~~ a segment; and

enables a user to manipulate the indicator to designate two or more of the displayed characters of the first type to be associated into the segment,

a segmentation module that associates the characters into the segment based on the designation by the user via the user interface; and

a character conversion module that converts the characters of the segment into at least one character of the second type.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 11, wherein the indicator can be modified by ~~a~~ the user to change which characters are associated together into the segment.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 13, where

the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into the segment; and

the user ~~can~~ interface enables the user to manipulate the indicator to extend the bar to ~~add~~ run adjacent to additional characters such that said additional characters are also ~~characters to~~ associated in the segment.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 13, wherein

the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into ~~a~~ the segment; and

the user interface enables the user to manipulate the indicator to ~~can~~ contract the bar to not run adjacent to certain characters such that said certain characters are not associated~~remove characters from~~ in the segment.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface

provides ~~a~~ at least one menu command selectable by the user that ~~allows a user to designate~~indicates a potential designation of one or more characters to be associated in the segment,

wherein the potential designation is determined based on a current user designation of the ~~segmentation of~~ characters associated in the segment by the segmentation module.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface

displays a second indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters of the first type are to be associated together into a second segment.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface displays a plurality of characters of a first type on two or more lines; and ~~provides an~~wherein the indicator ~~that~~ can be modified by a user to ~~change~~ indicate which of the ~~associate one or more of the~~ characters on different lines are to be associated together into the segment.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~tool~~ recited in claim 11, further comprising an electronic ink recognition module for recognizing at least one of the characters of the first type from electronic ink.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of associating and converting two or more characters of a first type into at least one character of a second type, comprising: ~~into a segment;~~

receiving a plurality of characters;

displaying the plurality of characters in a user interface;

providing, in the user interface, an indicator capable of being manipulated by the user to indicate ~~that associates~~ a first group of the plurality of characters to be associated ~~into~~ a segment;

receiving input from a user modifying the indicator to ~~associate~~ indicate a second group of the plurality of characters into the segment; and

converting the characters of the segment into at least one character of the second type.

22. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the second group includes the first group and additional characters.

23. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the second group includes only a portion of the first group of characters.

24. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein

the indicator is a bar adjacent to the first group of characters; and

the input changes a length or position of the bar so that the bar is adjacent to the second group of characters.

25. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 21, further including

displaying the first group of characters on a first line of characters;

displaying a first portion of the second group of characters on the first line;

displaying a second portion of the second group of characters on a second line of characters; and

receiving input that modifies the indicator to extend from the first line to the second line.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 11, wherein the first type of character is a phonetic type and the second type of character is a pictographic type.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 11, wherein the first type of character is Kana and the second type of character is Kanji.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface

displays a menu comprising a list of conversion alternatives determined based on the segment; and

enables the user to select one of said conversion alternatives,

wherein the character conversion module converts the characters of the segment to the conversion alternative selected by the user.

29. (New) The method recited in claim 21, further comprising

displaying a menu comprising a list of conversion alternatives determined based on the segment; and

receiving user input of one of the conversion alternatives,

converting the characters of the segment to the conversion alternative inputted by the user.

30. (New) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of characters are received from an electronic ink recognition module for recognizing at least one of the characters of the first type from electronic ink.